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POVERTY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN INDONESIA: A CASE STUDY IN JAVA-BALI REGION

KEMISKINAN PADA MASA PANDEMI COVID-19 DI INDONESIA: SEBUAH STUDI KASUS DI WILAYAH JAWA-BALI

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia has greatly affected by COVID-19 outbreak. This study shows that health crisis during COVID-19 pandemic has caused the rise of new poor seen from the increase of poverty rates, both at the national, regional, and local levels. This article aims to map poverty conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia with a case study in the Java-Bali region. Using a descriptive analytical method, this study shows that the increase in poverty during the pandemic is associated with the rate of COVID-19 cases occurring in all provinces with varying increases. The Java-Bali region, which consists of six provinces, is the area with the highest number of positive cases of COVID-19 which causes the greatest change in poverty. Among the 128 regencies/cities, the six top highest increase in poverty are regencies/cities that located in small islands and coastal regions. The highest increase was experienced by Kepulauan Seribu by 2,78 percentage point of increase. This follows by increase in Sampang Regency (2,07 percentage point), North Jakarta (1,74 percentage point), Bangkalan Regency (1,66 percentage point), and Indramayu Regency (1,59 percentage point) respectively. Further research needs to be done to elaborate this finding to anticipate poverty in Indonesia in the future when the uncertainty of COVID-19 continues to this day.

Keywords: COVID-19; poverty; Indonesia; Java-Bali; social distancing.

ABSTRAK

Indonesia sangat terdampak oleh pandemi COVID-19. Studi ini menunjukkan bahwa krisis kesehatan selama pandemi COVID-19 telah menyebabkan munculnya penduduk miskin baru yang terlihat dari peningkatan angka kemiskinan, baik di tingkat nasional, regional, maupun lokal. Artikel ini bertujuan untuk memetakan kondisi kemiskinan pada masa pandemi COVID-19 di Indonesia dengan studi kasus pada wilayah Jawa-Bali. Dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif analitis, studi ini menunjukkan bahwa peningkatan kemiskinan pada masa pandemi berasosiasi dengan tingkat kasus COVID-19 yang terjadi di semua provinsi dengan peningkatan yang beragam. Wilayah Jawa-Bali yang terdiri atas enam provinsi merupakan wilayah paling tinggi kasus positif COVID-19 sehingga perubahan kemiskinannya juga paling besar. Dari 128 kabupaten/kota di wilayah Jawa-Bali, kabupaten/kota dengan peningkatan kemiskinan tertinggi adalah kabupaten/kota yang terletak di pulau-pulau kecil dan wilayah pesisir yaitu Kepulauan Seribu sebesar 2,78 persen

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poin diikuti oleh Kabupaten Sampang (2,07 persen poin), Jakarta Utara (1,74 persen poin), Kabupaten Bangkalan (1,66 persen poin), dan Kabupaten Indramayu (1,59 persen poin). Penelitian lebih lanjut perlu dilakukan untuk mengelaborasi temuan ini sebagai bagian dari usaha untuk mengantisipasi kemiskinan di Indonesia melihat bahwa ketidakpastian COVID-19 masih berlanjut hingga hari ini.

Kata Kunci: COVID-19: kemiskinan; Indonesia; Jawa-Bali; pembatasan sosial.

INTRODUCTION

Human activities have been disrupted worldwide since the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. The health crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic has brought a negative impact on the economies in many countries. Although lockdown and social restrictions are crucial to break the chain of COVID-19 transmission, these measures have a significant impact on the global economy, such as a decline in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (International Monetary Fund (IMF), 2021; Jena et al , 2021; König & Winkler, 2020; McKibbin & Fernando, 2020) this paper explores seven different scenarios of how COVID-19 might evolve in the coming year using a modelling technique developed by Lee and McKibbin (2003 and the increase in poverty (Mahler et al, 2021; UNDESA, 2020) which has an impact on the increase in the number of poor. Globally, using growth forecasts from the *Global Economic Prospects* (GEP) in January 2021, the World Bank estimates that the pandemic will push between 119 and 124 million people into extreme poverty around the globe in 2020 (Mahler et al., 2021). At smaller scale of economy, lockdown and social restrictions have significant impact to the middle to lower income groups where many people were trapped into poverty because of COVID-19 pandemic.

Until now, COVID-19 pandemic is still happening. According to WHO as of September 22, 2021, the global total number of confirmed cases was approximately 229,373,963 with 4,705,111 deaths (WHO, 2021). In Indonesia, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of 22 September 2021 was 4.198.678 cases, with 149.954 deaths (3.5 percent) (Satgas COVID-19, 2021). The trend of daily cases shows a rapid increase in the mid-March - July 2021 period and the peak of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia occurred on July 15, 2021, six months after the peak of the first wave which occurred on January 30, 2021.

In Indonesia, the COVID-19 pandemic that began in early March 2020 has restricted people from economic activities due to the implementation of state social restriction, ranging from the *Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar* (PSBB) to the policy of *Pemberlakuan Pembatasan Kegiatan Masyarakat* (PPKM) in the Java-Bali and other regions. The social restrictions have caused quite massive economic shocks especially to those who are in middle to lower income groups.

The economic shocks have a further impact on the decline in income for some people, some even have no income at all caused by business shutdowns or termination of employment (*Pemutusan Hubungan Kerja/PHK*). In a virtual conference on 10 February 2021, the Minister of Manpower stated that the COVID-19 pandemic caused 24.03 million workers to lose their income and 2.56 million people became unemployed, as well as 1.17 million people temporarily out of work (Aria, 2021).

The Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) study on the impact of COVID-19 on the labor force stated that 15.6% of the total sample (1,112 workers/employees) had experienced termination of employment and decreased income during the PSBB period in Indonesia (Ngadi, Meliana, & Purba, 2020). A more recent survey of ASEAN countries conducted by the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) found that 36.7% of 1,000 households in Indonesia lost their jobs and experienced reduced working time (Morgan & Trinh, 2021).

These phenomena led to an increase in the number of poor people in Indonesia. Before the pandemic, the percentage of Indonesia poverty rate showed a downward trend with 9.22%, the lowest figure occurring in

September 2019 (BPS, 2020b). The poverty rate increased to 9.78% in early March 2021, right at the beginning of the emergence of COVID-19 cases in Indonesia, and then increased rapidly after six (6) months of the pandemic (between March 2020 to September 2020) to 10.99% or 27.55 million population (BPS, 2020a, 2020b, 2021b)

Although almost all regions/provinces in Indonesia experienced an increase in poverty rates, the poverty rates varied between provinces in line with the pandemic conditions in each region. For example, DKI Jakarta Province, which has a low poverty rate, but this province is the epicenter of COVID-19, has experienced an increase in the number of poor people by 32.72% during the period September 2019-March 2020, which is the highest increase in Indonesia (BPS, 2020b, 2020a). The high rise in the number of the poor also experienced by provinces in Java-Bali region, with the rank of Banten (20.98%), West Java (17.92%), East Java (8.95%), Central Java (8.19%), DIY (7.90%), and Bali (5.28%). Due to these facts, the discussion of poverty during the pandemic at the provincial and district/city levels is focused on the islands of Java-Bali.

Many studies have discussed poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, most of previous studies are more likely to discuss poverty estimates due to the availability of data, both at the regional and global levels (Bargain & Aminjonov, 2020; Sumner, Hoy, & Ortiz-juarez, 2020; United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs, 2020; World Vision, 2020). Likewise for the Indonesian context, some studies on poverty related to COVID-19 has also been carried out (Gibson & Olivia, 2020; Setyadi & Indriyani, 2021; Suryahadi, Al Izzati, & Suryadarma, 2020; Tarigan, Sinaga, & Rachmawati, 2020).

Unlike previous studies that mostly discuss poverty projections, this study aims to explore how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected poverty in Indonesia focusing on the island of Java-Bali.

The empirical data were collected using qualitative methods. The informant's recruitment uses stratified random sampling method derived from IPSK-LIPI COVID-19 2020 online survey database. In-depth interviews were conducted to several informants who had difficulty doing work due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Secondary data used in this study is derived from National Social and Economic Survey, or SUSENAS, from March 2019 to March 2021, that is the number of poor people (in percent), namely (1) between September 2019-March 2020; (2) March 2020-September 2020; and (3) September 2020-March 2021. The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 from *covid19.go.id* and *kawalcovid19.id* (in percent) is also calculated during this period at the national and provincial levels. Changes in the number of poor are analyzed in relation to the condition of the COVID-19 pandemic, both at the national and provincial levels.

Analysis of poverty data during the COVID-19 pandemic at the national and provincial levels in Java-Bali, which are the areas with the worst positive cases of COVID-19, can provide benefits for broadening knowledge of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on poverty at the meso level, which is still rarely studied.

DISCUSSION

Social restrictions and lockdown policies were enforced in almost all countries in the world (Flaxman et al., 2020). In Indonesia, the social restriction policy uses various terms released by the government. From PSBB to PPKM, Indonesian government has implemented various level of social restrictions based on the magnitude of confirmed COVID-19 cases in every region.

As of August 18, 2021, Indonesia had the highest cumulative number of COVID-19 cases (3.87 million) compared to other ASEAN countries, such as the Philippines (1.76 million), Malaysia (1.42 million), and Thailand (0.928 million) (Ritchie et.al, 2021). Then, looking at the percentage of cumulative COVID-19 cases to the total number of populations, Indonesia ranks third (1.42%) after Malaysia (4.39%) and the Philippines (1.61%). This illustrates that the number of COVID-19 cases in Indonesia is quite high, both in percentage and absolute terms. The

high cumulative cases of COVID-19 in Indonesia were mainly contributed by the increase in the number of new cases, which started two weeks after Eid al-Fitr 1442 H, or starting in early June 2021. Although after mid-July 2021, the development of new daily cases decreased, but the number of cases still high. The dynamics of new cases of COVID-19 are followed by the rise and fall of the poverty rate in Indonesia. The increase in the number and percentage of the poor has experienced since the beginning of the pandemic. This simply because most of the population could not or had to reduce their economic activity due to social restriction policy.

Poverty in Indonesia during COVID-19 Pandemic

Along with the implementation of social restriction policies that sometimes seem inadequate, the Indonesian government has not yet fully succeeded in reducing COVID-19 cases. In mid-2021, the country even experienced a high spike in cases for about one month. The highest number of new cases occurred on July 15, 2021, with positive confirmed cases of COVID-19 reached 56,757 cases. This is the peak of the second wave with a case rate of about four times the peak of the first wave on January 30, 2021 (Satgas COVID-19, 2021).

The development of new cases of COVID-19 in Indonesia from March 2020 to the end of July 2021 can be seen in Figure 1. The development of new cases of COVID-19 during the period March-November 2020 increased gradually and there was a high increase in the period November 2020-January 2021. This increase is related to the relaxation of social restrictions in the new normal which began on May 5, 2020. The new normal is carried out after three months of passing the emergency response period and the PSBB.

During the new normal period, people are allowed to carry out activities outside their houses by complying with the health protocols that have been regulated by the government with the 5M jargon, namely *memakai masker* (wearing masks), *mencuci tangan dengan sabun* (washing hands with soap under running water), *menjaga jarak* (maintaining social distancing), *menghindari kerumunan* (avoiding crowds), and *mengurangi mobilitas* (reducing mobility). Despite the jargon, people tend to ignore health protocols, so that new cases increase in late 2020 to early 2021 (November 2020-January 2021). This increase occurred after national holidays, namely the religious day of the Prophet Muhammad's Birthday, Christmas, and New Year. During this holiday period, the government issued a travel ban outside the area so that the mobility of the population can be reduced.

Despite the enaction of travel ban, many people still travel and still tend to ignore health protocols. However, the increase in new cases was still lower (58.63% and 64%, respectively between November-December 2020, and December 2020-January 2021) than the increase in new cases in the first five months of the pandemic (March-April, April-May, May-June, and June-July) (Figure 1).

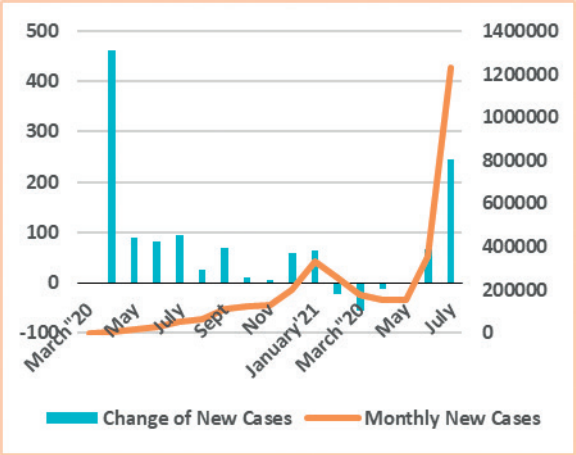

Figure 1:
Number of new cases of COVID-19 per month and its change-, Indonesia March 2020-July 2021
Source: modified from covid19.go.id, 2021

The higher increase in total confirmed cases compared to the number of cases at the beginning of the pandemic was caused by the low level of public knowledge related to COVID-19. Devi Pramita Sari & Nabila Sholihah 'Atiqoh, (2020) found that non-compliance with wearing masks was partly due to the poor knowledge and understanding of

the population, especially those with lower education. Several other studies have also concluded that people with lower education level tend to practice poor health protocols (Afrianti & Rahmiati, 2021; Riyadi & Larasaty, 2021; Wiranti, Sriatmi, & Kusumastuti, 2020).

The total of new cases COVID-19 in Indonesia had dropped in early 2021 with the lowest decline occurring between February-March 2021, which was (-) 54.32%. The number of cases tends to decrease but then increases rapidly in the period June-July 2021, 254.34%, or equivalent to three times the increase in the previous one-month period. The very significant increase was due to massive social interactions and violations of health protocols during the Eid holiday, which was also exacerbated by the presence of a new virus variant or Delta variant that spreads faster (Widyawati, 2021).

Based on data from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia on June 13, 2021, 104 of the 145 sequences have been detected as Delta variants (B.1,617.2) (Bayu, 2021). Similarly, the results of the Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) research conducted by the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, using samples from Karawang, West Java Province, 44 of 61 samples (72%) of which were the Delta variant (Humas LIPI, 2021). Similar results were obtained from Widyawati's (2021) study with specimens from COVID-19 patients in Kudus, Central Java Province which experienced a very high spike in cases after Eid al-Fitr, which showed that 28 of 34 samples, or about 82%, were variants. Delta (B.1.617) from COVID-19. The spread of the Delta variant with a very high transmission rate has caused the government to implement a strict social restriction policy (PPKM) that affect economic activities for almost four months since July 2021.

The outbreak of the Delta variant of COVID-19 has had an impact on the community's economy. This is triggered by many factors such as mobility restrictions, decreased production, salary cuts, and job losses. This condition causes an increase in poverty rates during the pandemic. The scenario carried out by (Suryahadi et al., 2020) shows that poverty can increase by 7.4 percentage points if the economy contracts (-) by 3.5%, but only one (1) percentage point if the economy can grow at a rate of 4.2% in 2020. Using the 2018 SUSENAS data, Gibson & Olivia (2020) also found an increase in the poverty rate of about nine (9) percentage points, or about 23 million people in 2020 due to the impact of decline in real consumption during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The prediction results are very different from the SUSENAS data. In September 2019 and September 2020, the increase in the number of poor people during the one-year period was only 2.76 million people (from 24.78 million to 27.55 million). Based on the ratio, the poverty rate only increased by 0.97 percent, nearly the same as the stimulation of Suryahadi et al. study (2020) using the economic growth scenario of 4.2%.

BPS released that the Indonesian economy in 2020 grew by 2.07% compared to 2019, much lower than the scenario in the study of Suryahadi et al. (2020). This illustrates that negative economic growth during the pandemic in Indonesia has increased the poverty rate. But it should be noted that this is not as severe as economists predict, which only takes economic growth into account. In addition, it should also be noted that the Indonesian people generally have strong social capital. With the spirit of *gotong royong* (helping each other), the community can help each other when there is a shock, such as natural disasters including the COVID-19 pandemic so that social safety nets can prevent people from falling into the trap of poverty.

On the other hand, the results of an analysis of 39 online news found that there were community aids in reducing the economic impact of COVID-19 through fundraising, providing necessities, providing free food for affected communities (informal sector workers and underprivileged families) (Sitohang, Rahadian, & Prasetyoputra, 2020). Recent study also found that social capital in one of the villages in Purworejo Regency, Central Java Province was very helpful in overcoming the socio-economic impact of COVID-19,

including through the *jogo-tonggo* (taking care of neighbors) program, namely aiding with raw or cooked food. to those who have been severely affected by the economy from the COVID-19 pandemic and those who are self-isolating (Probosiwi & Putri, 2021)data were collected by in-depth interviews with respondents who were selected by snowball sampling. The research was conducted in Purworejo Regency. Result: The Covid-19 pandemic changed the pattern of relations between communities through the local (village. This social capital can at least help prevent a small part of the population, especially those who are not poor but nearly poor from falling into the trap of poverty.

Figure 2 illustrates the trend of poverty rates in Indonesia for one year before and after the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia based on SUSENAS. In March 2019, the poverty rate was 9.41%, or 25.14 million people of the total population, then fell to 9.22% six months later (September 2019). However, in less than a month after the COVID-19 pandemic, the poverty rate increased to 9.78% in March 2020. During the period of September 2019-March 2020, the increase in the number of poor people was the highest (6.61%).

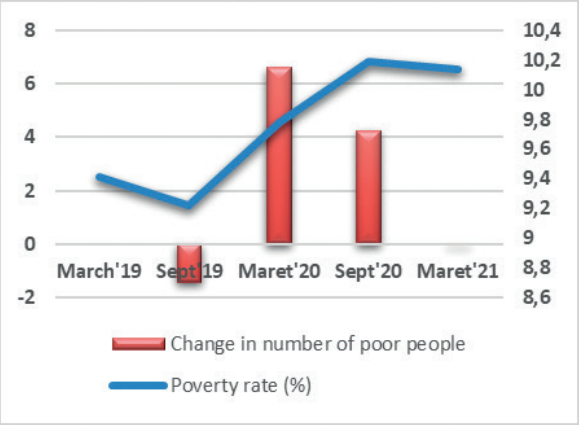

Figure 2:
Indonesian poverty rates and its dynamics 2019-2021.
Source: (BPS, 2020b. 2021b. 2021a)

The high increase in the percentage of poor people is influenced by reduced working hours and closing of jobs/businesses may affected by the PSBB policy at the beginning of the pandemic. PSBB resulted in the closure of many workplaces (except the basic sector) and business shutdowns for those working in the informal sector. The closure of workplaces and business activities has significant impact on income, especially for those affected by PHK, business shutdowns, or the informal sector whose work depends on daily income. This condition is correlated with the highest increase in the percentage of poor people. Nevertheless, the poverty rate is still the lowest during the pandemic with only a small number of new cases of COVID-19 (see Figure 3).

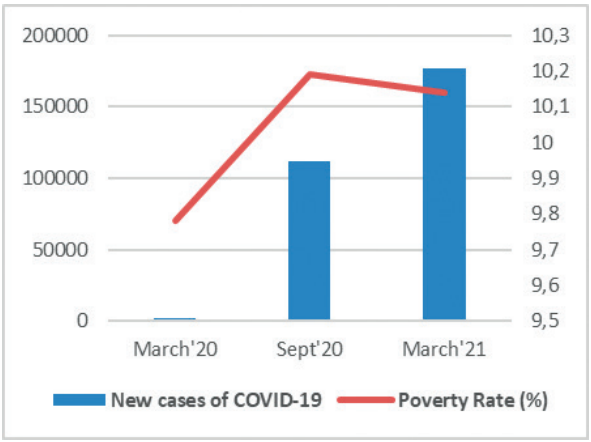

Figure 3:
Monthly new cases of COVID-19 and poverty rates, March 2020-March 2021
Source: BPS 2020 and 2021. covid.go.id, 2021

During the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic (March–September 2020), the poverty rate continued to increase with a lower change than the period September 2019-March 2020 (Figure 3), even though COVID-19 cases in September were much higher than monthly cases (Figure 4). In March 2021, new cases of COVID-19 were still increasing (Figure 3), but the poverty rate was decreasing (Figure 3), as was the change in the percentage of the poor, which was minus (-) 0.02 percent (Figure 2).

One of the most influential factors is the '*new normal*' so that people can return to their activities by implementing health pro-

tocols. People began to carry out many activities, both in their original work and had to switch to other types of work. Besides fiscal policy on macroeconomic level (Silalahi & Ginting, 2020), the government have also secure people from the trap of poverty with various social protection programs. These include national electricity subsidy, the Family Hope (PKH) conditional cash transfer program, and the food voucher (*Sembako*) program (Cardno, 2021). In response to COVID-19 pandemic, government also provide unconditional cash transfers, food transfers and modified cash for work programs (*Kartu Prakerja*) designed for the people who directly affected by COVID-19 pandemic.

Portrait of poverty in Java and Bali

In the final semester of 2020, many governors relaxed the 'lockdown' in their respective regions with various considerations; one of them is to 'recover' the increasingly difficult economic conditions (Prasojo, Kusumaningrum, & Dalimunthe, 2021). However, economic conditions have not yet fully recovered, especially in Java and Bali. According to Tarigan et al (2020), the impacts that occurred in Java and Bali were very significant, the provinces with the worst impacts were DKI Jakarta, DI Yogyakarta, West Java, Central Java, East Java, Bali, and Banten.

Table 1.
COVID-19 Cases in Java-Bali on 22 September 2021

Province	Cumulative COVID-19 Cases	Daily Cases
DKI Jakarta	856.585	227
West Java	701.263	211
Central Java	480.069	190
East Java	393.960	**295**
DI Yogyakarta	154.214	105
Banten	131.069	77
Bali	111.804	132

Source: *kawalcovid19.id, 2021*

During the pandemic, Java-Bali region have become regions that have the highest cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases. If calculated from the seven provinces located in Java and Bali, the total cumulative cases as of 22 September 2021 reached 2,828,964, or 67.37% of the total cumulative COVID-19 cases in Indonesia. This clearly shows that the Java-Bali region is the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic, where more than half of the confirmed cases occurred in this region. DKI Jakarta is the province with the highest number of cumulative confirmed cases of COVID-19, followed by West Java, Central Java, East Java, Yogyakarta Special Region, Banten, and Bali (Table 1). However, daily cases in these seven provinces tend to decrease when compared to the peak of the second wave in July 2021. On 22 September 2021, East Java is the province with the highest daily cases compared to other provinces, which is 295 cases (see Table 1).

Many factors can influence the high number of cases in Java-Bali region, especially in Java. Apart from being densely populated, the population on the island of Java also tends to have high mobility compared to other large islands in Indonesia. Cultural factors such as *mudik* are also factors that influence the increase in COVID-19 cases in Java. Recent study shows that in the first year of pandemic, most massive *mudik* flow is expected to occur from Jakarta Metropolitan Area to Central Java while Central Java and East Java are the highest mudik destinations (Prasojo, Aini, & Kusumaningrum, 2020). According to COVID-19 Task Force data, within two weeks of Eid in 2020, Central Java and East Java became one of the provinces with the highest spike in COVID-19 cases in Indonesia, increasing by 36.8% and 45.36% respectively (Chrysna, 2021). In 2021, spokesman for the COVID-19 Task Force, Professor

Wiku Adisasmito, indicated that there was an increase in new active cases of 56.6% and deaths in the two-week period after Eid al-Fitr 2021 (Chrysna, 2021). After the Eid 2021 holiday, the Java-Bali region experienced a second wave of pandemic, when the Delta variant spread which exacerbated not only the health crisis but also the economic crisis in various regions.

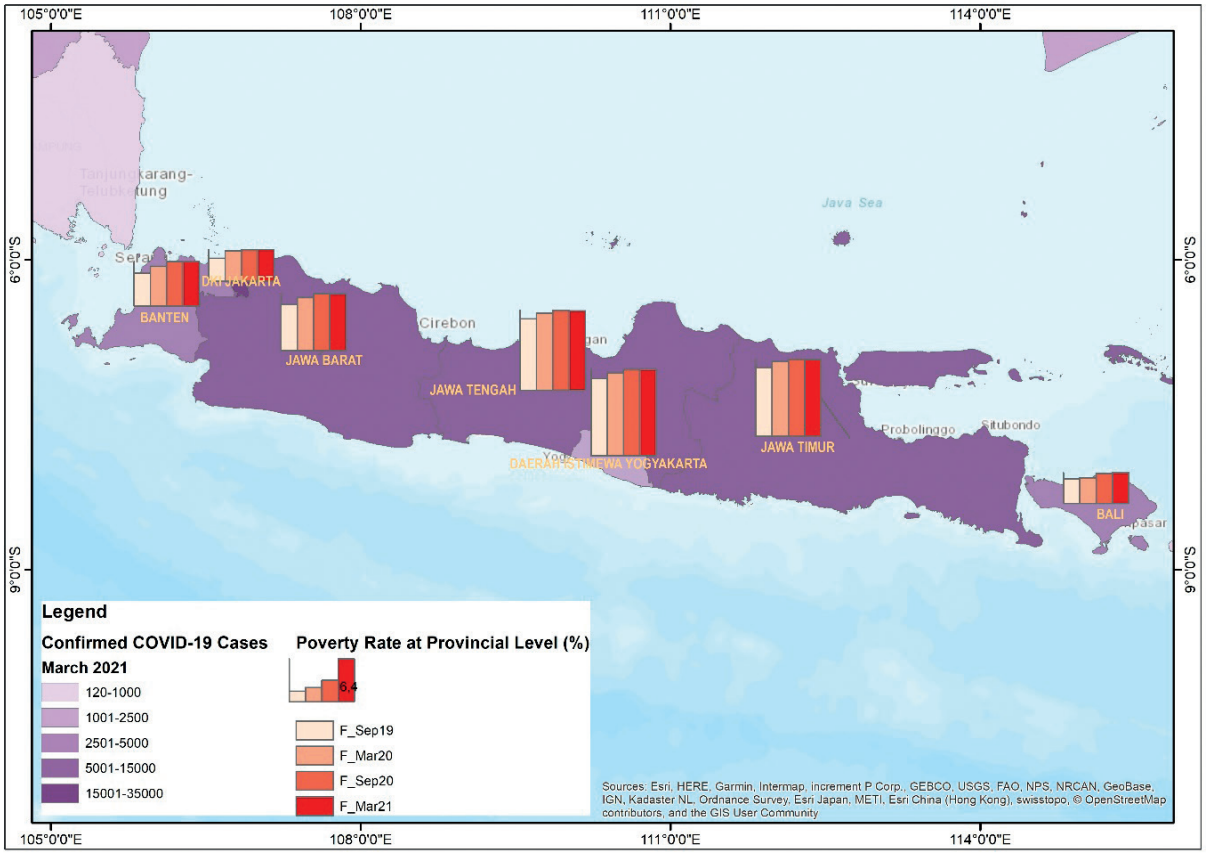

Figure 4:
Poverty rates in Java and Bali

During the first phase of COVID-19 pandemic, Java-Bali region had greatly affected by the health crisis and economic shocks due to the pandemic. Based on SUSENAS data, all of province in Java and Bali experienced an increase in poverty in March 2020 when compared to poverty rate in September 2019 (before pandemic) (see Figure 4). The three highest increases were experienced by DKI Jakarta, West Java, and Banten by 1,11%, 1,06%, and 0,98% respectively (BPS, 2020a). It is assumed that this increase was caused by massive economic shocks that happen in Jakarta Metropolitan Area which is considered as the epicentrum of COVID-19 (Prasojo et al., 2020), which consists not only DKI Jakarta but also its suburbs (Tangerang Raya, Bekasi, Depok, Bogor) located in West Java and Banten Province.

Meanwhile, other provinces in Java such as East Java, Yogyakarta Special Region, and Central Java also experience high increase by 0,89%, 0,84%, and 0,83% respectively. During March 2020 to September 2020, all of province in Java and Bali also experienced an increase in poverty, but the highest increases at this period were experienced by Banten, Bali, and West Java by 0,71%, 0,67%, and 0,55% respectively.

Before the second wave of COVID-19, there were three provinces that experienced an increase in poverty in March 2021 when compared to poverty rate in September 2020. These provinces were Jakarta, where the poverty rate increased by 0.03%, Banten by 0.03%, and Bali by 0.08%. The highest poverty rate in March 2021 was in Yogyakarta Special Region at 12.8% and followed by Central Java and East Java at 11.79% and 11.4%, respectively.

These statistics are not merely numbers but a portrait of what is happening in Indonesia especially Java and Bali. For example, in Jakarta, many workers have been affected

by the business closure due to the pandemic. One of our informants (MR) who is a therapist in Jakarta said that he lost his jobs during the first pandemic outbreak in Jakarta.

> *"I was laid off because the hotels were closed, the hotels that were closed were mostly 3-star hotels, and 4-star hotels. Most of the hotels in Jakarta were closed, yes, in the end I was laid off, unilaterally. So now the point is, if you don't work, then you won't have any income. It's been March (2020), basically I haven't worked in the hotels for the past 2 months… The impact of COVID is very significant for us, the impact of course on the communities, hotel activities were greatly reduced. Previously, I worked in several hotels, mostly on night duties, from hotel to hotel as a therapist."- MR, 26 years old. (Source: primary data)*

MR who is migrant from Central Java stated that he was stranded in Jakarta. He could not work and go back to his home either. Central Java Governor suggested that migrants who were stranded in Jakarta could bear this situation until the pandemic condition is better. According to MR, there have been many young migrants (*anak rantau*) other than him who were stranded in Jakarta because of the lockdown thus they had to survive. In terms of income, MR said that there had been extreme decrease on his income, he was usually paid above the minimum regional income (UMR), but now he needs to work very hard to earn some pennies to survive his daily needs. MR admitted that he has received some aid from *Kitabisa* and *Gojek*, but these are not enough to cover his daily needs. MR's experience continues to show that many residents in Jakarta (especially migrants) have become more vulnerable to poverty due to the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In West Java, many residents are affected, especially in the Greater Bandung area. Just like in other regions, the distribution of social assistance or *bansos* (*bantuan sosial*) is also carried out in West Java. However, based on the results of interviews with our informant (NN) who lives in Bandung Regency, the distribution of *bansos* in his area tends to be not on target. Many who live in *rumah gedong* (big house, higher economic level) still receive *bansos* from government. According to NN, many of the workers could not work in Bandung and returned to their villages to become agricultural laborers. His neighbors who are mostly construction workers who work in Bandung lost their job, so they are forced to stay in the village and turned to farming as farmer workers. Many of these construction workers also got into fights with their families (because of economic difficulties).

In East Java, people who live in islands like Madura and Bawean was severely affected. In Bawean Island, many people were affected due to limited operating schedule for passenger and cargo ships from Java to Bawean and vice versa which indirectly affect the distribution of logistics to Bawean Island (Susilo, Istiawati, Deffinika, & Budijanto, 2021). These facts show that poverty during the pandemic has become worsen and affect many people especially those who works in the informal sector and rely on sea transportation to the mainland of Java.

If we look statistical data at smaller scale, all regencies/cities in Java (119 regencies/cities) experienced an increase in poverty rates in 2020. Meanwhile in Bali, not all regencies/cities experienced an increase; Klungkung Regency, Jembrana Regency, Karangasem Regency, and Bangli Regency experienced a decrease in poverty rates. Among the 128 regencies/cities in Java and Bali region, the six top highest increase are regencies/cities that located in small islands and coastal regions.

It is very interesting that geographical setting may affect the poverty rates in some regencies/cities. The highest increase was experienced by Kepulauan Seribu (across Java Sea), northern part of DKI Jakarta, by 2,78 percentage point of increase. This follows by increase in Sampang Regency (Madura Island) (2,07 percentage point), North Jakarta (1,74 percentage point), Bangkalan Regency (Madura Island) (1,66 percentage point), and Indramayu Regency (1,59 percentage point) respectively.

The increase in poverty in the coastal and small islands is partly due to a limitation

in the passenger and cargo ships because of travel restriction policy particularly during PPKM which also restrict several economic activities in the mainland of Java and Bali. This condition give impact on the decline in economic activity in related sectors, such as small-scale trade and services, thus encourages poverty due to their reduced income from these activities.

CONCLUSION

Indonesia has greatly affected by the health crisis and economic shocks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The health crisis during the pandemic is associated with increasing poverty rates, both at the national, regional, and local levels (regencies and cities). In less than a month after the COVID-19 pandemic, the national poverty rate increased to 9.78% in March 2020. At smaller scale, all regencies/cities in Java (119 regencies/cities) experienced an increase in poverty rates in 2020.

Massive economic shock due to business interruptions and shutdowns during COVID-19 pandemic has affect many people, both those who work in formal and informal sectors, to reduce their working hours or even losing their jobs. The uncertainty in the time of COVID-19 has made precarity among productive working groups. We can see this clearly in Java-Bali region where many workers have been affected because of the health crisis.

This study found that migrant workers in urban areas are more vulnerable to poverty due to travel restriction and business closures. This study also found that poverty in small islands and coastal cities are severely affected besides urban areas which have been always considered as the epicentrum of COVID-19. The sea as natural barrier with travel restriction policy may be good for breaking the chain of transmission of COVID-19, but this study found that this also become a cause for concern. Further research needs to be done to elaborate this finding to comprehensively understand the problem and find the appropriate answer to this social problem. Thus, it can be anticipated the conditions of poverty in Indonesia in the future when the uncertainty of COVID-19 continues to this day.

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